

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	: Zine-Eddine Boutaghou	
Appln. No.	:	
Filed	: Herewith	Group Art Unit:
Title	: EXTENDED ALUMINA BASECOAT ADVANCED AIR BEARING SLIDER	Examiner:
Docket No.	: I69.12-0496	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail No.:

Sir:

Prior to an Examiner's first Action in the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 (marked up version attached in Appendix), such that pending claims 1-14 are as follows:

1. An air bearing slider comprising:
a transducer for communicating with a disc; and
means for supporting the transducer so that the transducer is at a closest position with respect to the disc during flight.
2. A slider of claim 1 wherein the means for supporting the transducer comprises:
a composite slider body with a front portion composed of a first material and a rear portion composed of a second material, the slider body having an air bearing surface defined on a disc opposing face of the slider body, where the air bearing surface comprises the front portion and the rear portion; and

a transducer basecoat portion attached to the rear portion of the slider body and containing the transducer.

3. The slider of claim 2, where an interface of the first material and the second material comprises a latitudinal plane substantially perpendicular to the air bearing surface.
4. The slider of claim 3 wherein a thickness of the first material is as much as about 15 times the thickness of the second material.
5. The slider of claim 4 wherein a thickness of the first material is as little as about half the thickness of the second material.
6. The slider of claim 3, wherein the transducer portion comprises the second material.
7. The slider of claim 6, where a lapping durability of the first material is greater than a lapping durability of the second material.
8. The slider of claim 6, where the first material is AlTiC and the second material is Al_2O_3 .
9. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a slider body which supports a transducer so that the transducer is at a closest position with respect to a disc during flight, the method comprising the steps of:
 - forming a composite wafer comprising a layer of a first material and a layer of a second material, the composite wafer comprising a plurality of joined slider bodies;

forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion containing a plurality of transducers, wherein at least one transducer resides on each of the slider bodies; and

defining an air bearing surface on each slider body, the air bearing surface comprising a leading portion of the first material and a trailing portion of the second material.

10. The method of claim 9, where a lapping durability of the first material is greater than a lapping durability of the second material.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising severing the composite wafer into a plurality of bars.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising severing a bar into a plurality of individual sliders.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein a thickness of the first material is as much as about 15 times the thickness of the second material.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein a thickness of the first material is as little as about half the thickness of the second material.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted for entry in the above-identified application prior to an Examiner undertaking a first Action in connection therewith.

First Named Inventor: Zine-Eddine Boutaghou

Application No.:

-4-

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

Date: June 19, 2011

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**APPENDIX:
MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

9. A method of manufacturing a slider body which supports a transducer so that the transducer is at a closest position with respect to a disc during flight, the method comprising the steps of:
- [attaching a layer comprising a second material to a wafer comprising a first material, thereby] forming a composite wafer comprising a layer of a first material and a layer of a second material, the composite wafer comprising a plurality of [sliders] joined slider bodies;
- forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion containing a plurality of transducers, wherein at least one transducer resides on each of the slider bodies; and
- [forming] defining an air bearing surface on [a] each slider body, the air bearing surface comprising a leading portion of the first material and a trailing portion of the second material.

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